



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of Representative Geoff Luxenberg in support of

HB 6211 An Act Concerning the Offering and Tasting of Distilled Spirits

General Law Committee Public Hearing

February 26, 2013

Dear Chairman Doyle, Chairman Baram and distinguished members of the General Law Committee, I testify today in support of House Bill 6211, An Act Concerning the Offering and Tasting of Distilled Spirits. This legislation is very simple in concept. If adopted, this legislation would amend the General Statutes to allow businesses that produce distilled spirits to offer samples and hold tastings.

The purpose of this change is to give greater flexibility to Connecticut's distilleries. In doing so, it allows Connecticut businesses to be more competitive with out-of-state competitors, allowing them to attract a greater volume and wider range of customers. Additionally, it makes Connecticut's distilleries more attractive for out-of-state consumers and tourists.

Moreover, this bill goes hand in hand with the changes in Connecticut's liquor laws passed in 2012. H.B. 6211 would continue to modernize the state's liquor laws while also encouraging economic development and making our distilleries more competitive regionally. Connecticut's distilleries would benefit enormously from this legislation, as it allows them to become an equally attractive destination alongside the state's excellent beer and wine trails. This is growing industry across New England and our country as a whole and it is of the utmost importance to give Connecticut's distilleries the flexibility they need to succeed in our state.

Although this bill is only a statutory change, I believe the immediate upfront benefits of this legislation are clear, as well as the long term benefits of economic development and protecting jobs in this industry.

I thank you for your indulgence and consideration of this legislation and am open to any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rep. Geoff Luxenberg
12th House District
Manchester